

Fountain Oaks Guest House
15835 Carey Avenue
Morgan Hill
Santa Clara County
California

HABS No. CA-2100A

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Architectural and Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

FOUNTAIN OAKS GUEST HOUSE

HABS No. CA 2100A

Location: 15835 Carey Avenue
Morgan Hill, Santa Clara County, California

USGS Mt. Sizer Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 10.625280.4109690

Present Owner: Vito Chiala
15835 Carey Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Present Occupant: Dr. and Mrs. Bruno Paul

Present Use: Residence.

Significance: "Fountain oaks" is a superlative example of the many opulent ranch estates nestled in the foothills of the Santa Clara valley. At its peak, the ranch contained some three dozen structures and over 500 acres of lawns, orchards, vegetable gardens, feeding lots, and grazing lands. It was originally the property of Kodak heiress Gertrude (Strong) Achilles. "Fountain Oaks" was also the home of Charles Kellogg, the "California Nature Singer."

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

See Fountain Oaks (HABS No. CA-2100)

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This small cottage is somewhat overpowered by its very large stone fireplace that becomes a major dominant element.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: This one and one-half story, five-bay rectangular building is approximately forty feet by fifty one feet.
2. Foundation: Concrete, with foundation vents.
3. Walls: Clay tile exterior walls with stucco finish. The west entrance and northwest corner are large stone boulders.

4. Structural system, framing: Load-bearing clay tile walls and wooden framing.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: The front porch is recessed on the south facade and has a large stone boulder column at the southwest corner. There is an arched opening on the south and west faces. The roof of the house extends out and covers the porch. It has a concrete floor. There is a small concrete stoop at the west entrance door.
6. Chimneys: There is a very large stone boulder chimney on the northwest corner of the house, becoming narrow as it rises up. It has inset panels formed in the stone on the faces. On the north face of the chimney there is a sixteen light metal framed window. Along the perimeter at the top is a coping of red mission tile. Above the coping is a square metal rain cap. There are two clay tile flues projecting through the roof near the center ridge. Each has a decorative clay pot on top.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance door on the south facade opens from the porch into the living room. The wooden door has a round-arched head and three vertical panels in the lower two-thirds. The upper section has a round-arched glass panel divided in segments with muntins around a larger central glass panel. There is a decorative wooden screen over the central panel. The doorway has wooden surrounds, sill and threshold. In the center of the door is a large brass door knocker. There is a wooden framed screen door with wide stiles and rails.

An entrance doorway on the west facade has wooden surround, sill and threshold. The wooden door has a lower panel of three boards with beveled edges and a four light glass panel in the upper section. There is a wooden framed screen door.

A doorway on the east facade leads to the kitchen. The wooden Dutch door has a four light glass panel in the top section and four panels in the lower section formed by a diagonal from each corner. There is a wooden surround and metal threshold

- b. Windows and shutters: On the west facade is a large round arched opening with fixed wooden sashes in the center flanked by a one-light casement sash each side. There is a fixed glass sash above the casements. The opening has a wooden surround and sill.

There is a bay on the south front with wooden, one-light, double casement sashes in the center flanked by a one-light casement each side. There is a fixed sash above each casement.

An angled bay on the east facade has a wooden, one-light casement sash on each angle and a double casement in the center. There is a fixed light sash above each casement.

There is a pair of French doors on the south facade, second floor opening onto a small wrought iron balcony. The wooden sashes have one light each.

Other wooden windows have one-light casement sashes, wooden surrounds and sill and wooden framed screens. There are aluminum sliding windows in the addition housing the kitchen. There are turquoise glazed tile vents in the gable ends of the house.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roof is covered with red mission tile. It extends in a curve on the west and north edges near the entrances. Shed roofs cover the bays and the addition on the rear, all covered with red mission tile.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The open eaves have decorative rafter tails, metal gutters and downspouts. There is a small screen vent at every other rafter in the soffit.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: There is a shed dormer on the east and west sides of the ridge near the center of the house. The side walls are stucco and the roof is covered with red mission tile.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The entrance from the porch leads into the large living room. There is a bay window on the south wall, a large window on the west wall and the fireplace covers almost the entire north wall. There are two steps on the north leading up to a landing and the kitchen. The kitchen extends throughout the rear addition. To the right of the entrance in the living room is a doorway to a bedroom. The bedroom has a bay window on the east wall and a large window on the south wall. Along the north wall are a bathroom and dressing room. From the landing in the living room the stairs continue to the second floor.
- b. Second floor: The second floor has a bedroom with a French door on the south wall opening to a very small balcony and along the north wall are a bath and dressing room.

2. Stairways: The wooden stairway extends up from the landing four steps to a landing, makes a quarter turn and extends up to the second floor. There is no handrail, but there is a low wooden paneled wall around the second landing.
3. Flooring: Wooden flooring, some covered with rugs. The kitchen has linoleum floor covering and the baths have ceramic tile.
4. Walls and ceiling finish: Plaster walls and ceilings, painted. The living room has exposed beams in the ceiling.
5. Doorways and doors: Wooden panel doors have a round-arch head and a rail forming two panels. The panels are wooden boards with bevel edges.
6. Special decorative features, trim, cabinet work: The fireplace in the living room is large stone boulders and is large enough to walk into. The lintel across the large opening is a large redwood log. The stone hearth has a metal grate inside of it. In the back of the fireplace, up high on the brick wall is a window. It is reported that the fireplace is piped with water to form waterfalls.
7. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Mechanical: Electric base board heating
 - b. Electrical: Modern lighting fixtures.
 - c. Plumbing: Modern plumbing fixtures.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The guest house sits about seventy-five yards east of the main house, facing south. There is a landscaped yard to the east side. Along the rear is a hillside that has a rock retaining wall forming a rock garden. There is a curving concrete sidewalk along the west side leading to the pool with a low clipped hedge on each side. The sidewalk leads to an asphalt paved parking area to the southeast of the house. There are several large oak trees to the north, south and east of the house.

Prepared by: John P. White
Project Supervisor
July 1980

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

See Fountain Oaks (HABS No. CA-2100)

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION:

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service's National Architectural and Engineering Record in cooperation with the County of Santa Clara, California. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS and Kenneth L. Anderson, Jr., Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1980 at the HABS Field Office, Santa Clara, California by John P. White, Project Supervisor (Associate Professor of Architecture Texas Tech. University); David T. Marsh, Jr., Project Foreman (Howard University); Jeffery Flemming, Project Historian (University of Chicago); Jane Lidz, Architect/Photographer; and student Architects Kimberley E. Harden (Auburn University); Melody S. Linger (University of Florida); and Mathew Poe (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University).